

Dragon's Bloodline

(竜の血脈)

Volume 09

The Great Collapse

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Story Description:

A martial artist (42 years old, single) devoted himself and trained his skill with the sword and martial arts, but was involved in a large scale disaster, and saved many people before his life ended. Who would have thought that when he went to the world of the dead, a beautiful woman who introduced herself to be General Administrator would appear? He was told that it was possible to reincarnate into a world of swords and magic, and the man gained the powerful Gift [Dragon's Bloodline]. However, he reincarnated as a woman. Furthermore, a beautiful woman. In order for him to walk down the warrior's road to recover his symbol of being a man, he made a fresh start as a woman. Shall we go on an adventure? Let's begin!

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 113: The Demon King's Proclamation

On that day, all of Earth's people came to know that there was something mysterious happening with their world.

Everyone other than those who had just been born or those who had already died looked towards the skies.

What they saw was another planet. [1]

Having blue oceans, green stretches of land, and white clouds, it was a planet that looked similar to Earth.

It was another world.

The satellites that should have been orbiting their planet all disappeared, along with other space stations, causing each country to fall into chaos. However, each one observed this new world and recognized the traces of intelligent life, contacting one another.

A certain hasty country set out reconnaissance aircraft... and confirmed that there truly was a world there.

The cause was unknown. Its very existence was unscientific and was a contradiction to all known laws of physics.

A planet had come in contact with their atmosphere. It had very scarce artificial lighting.

Another certain country judged those lands to be undeveloped and tried to send in an aircraft carrying people to occupy the land, but it failed.

The planet had allowed drones, but manned aircraft were refused. Those aircraft were blocked by the atmosphere, but managed to return home safely.

What was it? Everyone the world over discussed it.

Each country held conferences with their specialists, but the everyday internet users instantly guessed what this signified.

Another world.

Even if they didn't know anything else about it, it was definitely another world. [2]

Even through the use of commonly bought personal telescopes, the traces of intelligent life could be found on the planet. Rather, the intelligent lifeforms themselves could be seen.

Excitement swept across the world.

Three days later, it appeared.

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What looked like a massive screen appeared in the skies in two thousand locations throughout the world.

A figure was in it wearing gold-embroidered black clothes, a gold mask, and a black mantle with horned headpieces on the shoulders.

"Greetings, those of Earth."

With the voice of a young man, the messages mysteriously managed to accurately use all of the Earth's languages.

"I am the one who rules this world's greatest domain. I am Ars, the Demon King."

That single statement held a great amount of information.

"Those of Earth, you still do not understand what is happening, do you? Before we continue, allow me to explain."

It truly was information they wanted quite a lot.

"First of all, your world... the world you call Earth, exists in a universe that has a limit. Although explaining exactly what that limit is would be somewhat difficult, suffice it to say that that limit concerns the capacity of how many worlds may exist within it. We've arrived at one of those limits, so our two worlds have been connected."

Ars put his elbows on the desk and crossed his hands in much the same way Shifaka often did.

“If we left things to continue on as is, our two worlds will collide into each other and disappear. There are several paths in order to deal with that, but we have already chosen the path that will be taken.”

With that, Ars paused, speaking slowly.

“We will destroy the Earth.”

It took a few minutes for what he said to sink in.

Ars waited in silence for that period of time. Around three minutes later, he began to speak again, but Earth had already been thrown into chaos by then.

It was natural. Someone suddenly appeared saying that they would destroy the world.

The world’s superpowers—the United States included—made official war preparation announcements.

“By the way, we are prepared to accept immigrants from Earth. However, there is a limit. Six hundred million people. That would be the ideal amount.”

Although the Demonlands’ bureaucrats desperately calculated the upper limit that could be accepted to be closer to one billion, there was no need for him to speak so honestly. Humans were a race that would multiply. To somewhat guarantee them a certain standard of living, the less of them there were, the better.

“We are willing to accept engineers and scientists along with their close relatives as priorities. However, we have no use for humans will unproductive abilities.”

He spoke coldly, very much like a true Demon King.

“Moreover, we refuse to accept the sick and elderly unless they hold unique skills.”

He spoke ruthlessly, saying that nuisances were unnecessary. This was also something very Demon King-like.

“You have five days, please use them wisely. At noon of the fifth day, we

will send several messengers to the Japanese parliament building.”

Saying that much, Ars leaned back into his chair in a relaxed manner.

“Although it will not be possible to invade our world until then... you are free to try. It has been set such that any objects with a living signature will be temporarily rejected. In the case we are attacked, we will immediately consider it a declaration of war and eliminate the country responsible.”

If you want to give it a shot, go for it. That’s what Ars was saying. It was to cause countries that were quick to fire to have second thoughts.

“Well then. See you in five days. We look forward to meeting the leaders of your various countries in Japan.”

With that, the projections all disappeared.

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“Aaah~, I was seriously nervous during that speech. I didn’t trip up anywhere right?”

Taking off his mask, Ars had cold sweat dripping down his forehead. He used his hands to wave air against his neck.

Their world’s various royal families and strong people were invited into a facility similar to a university’s lecture room. There were many people unable to make the trip due to the distance involved, but they too had been sent information through communications.

“Even so, what you said was pretty one-sided. There aren’t any God Dragon-like strengths on Earth?”

The youth that spoke up was Prince Sion of Lemdria. Although he was a genius when it came to strategy, he wasn’t able to overcome the demons’ overwhelming war potential in the previous war.

Accepting the water someone had brought to him, Ars gulped it all down and took a deep breath before answering Sion’s question.

“It’s alright. Although they have weapons strong enough to turn our world’s continents into wastelands... they do not have a weapon capable of destroying a planet.”

“That’s still something to worry about. Do we need to put up barriers to counter it then? By the way, you spoke of weapons, but what about Earth’s mages?”

“Eh?”

“Well, if they have weapons that are that strong, wouldn’t the world’s magic be just as strong?”

“Oh. Oooh, oooooooh~”

Ars covered up his face in what looked like a face palm, reflecting on his thoughtlessness.

“Well, you know, Earth doesn’t have magic. At least to my knowledge, there isn’t even a single mage on Earth.”

“Huh?”

Sion’s mouth stayed open. It probably really was something incomprehensible to those of this world as its civilization was developed with magic as its premise.

Magic was the basis for communication, farming, and even raising cattle. All magic tools used magic crystals—masses of mana—as their fuel. Moreover, cutting edge technology made use of magic cores.

“In other words, they only use magic crystals for maintaining their civilization? You should still need magic to make magic tools though...”

“Weeell... let me tell you a bit about Earth’s civilization, alright?”

He then explained the development and growth of science through ancient times, the middle ages, the early modern era, the industrial revolution, and the modern era. He explained the transition of what was used as fuel in as much detail as possible. [3]

Regarding the industrial revolution’s steam engine, Serge had been invited into the explanation to give more details on it.

This Demon King-sama had lived for more than a thousand years. He didn’t remember too many details from that era.

“In conclusion... their studies concerning mathematics far outstrip ours? Couldn't we make use of that in our world?”

“It's possible, but I think it is better to tread that path very, very carefully. Once you make machines through science, humans become unnecessary, leading to problems with masses of unemployed individuals.”

Unemployed people would flood the city, leading to the degradation of public order. Something similar was starting to occur in this world as well. War refugees displaced by the demons' invasion were now on their way to return home, though.

Prince Sion grew quiet as he fell into contemplation.

After that, questions came one after another. Ars had Thor and the other reincarnators help out in answering their questions.

They were surprised that Gifts and Skills didn't exist, but it might be fine to say that they did exist yet just weren't quantified into numbers. It took mana to use identify-type skills to quantify them into numbers, after all.

“I see. The more I hear about their world, the less I understand it.”

Everyone in the surrounding group of people agreed with the person's mutters. Ars should have spread some of the technology one thousand years ago as well as Thor another thousand years before that, but not much had remained. The only place it succeeded in seemed to be the Demonlands.

“Even so, it's strange that the world that the Heroes are summoned from has no magic...”

“There are traces of its existence in the past... but now it is thought of as superstition.”

Even Ars was doubtful about that subject. Things like the qigong Ria had practiced in her previous life could only be seen as magic.

“For the time being, we'll assume that Earth's army will definitely attempt to attack. What we need to pay the most attention to out of their

weapons are what are called missiles.”

Ars briefly explained to his audience about what would be assailing them soon enough.

“That nuclear explosion thing you mentioned, is its strength at the level of the forbidden fire magic?”

“That’s correct.”

“Such power... only a huge city’s barrier might be able to defend against it.”

“Us demons are already prepared to handle that. Same with the God Dragons, or at least Ohma-sama will be giving us her cooperation.”

The assembly hall filled with noise, but as far as the world’s protectors, the God Dragons, were concerned, nuclear weaponry causing the amount of habitable land to diminish would be troubling.

Valis appeared to be concentrated on destroying Earth and Lanna was somewhat worn out from using her power to send the current era’s Hero to another world. As for Terrew, she would exercise her power the moment their own atmosphere was invaded.

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The extended conference coming to an end, Ria gave Ars, who looked tired despite likely not being too tired, a cold gaze.

“Good work.”

“No no, you saved me quite a lot there. As expected, those who’ve made it through to post-secondary schooling are different.”

Who he was conversing with was Serge. Ria herself wasn’t too useful.

“Even so... even if we can win, it looks like we’ll have our own deaths.”

Ria was concerned about it. Ever since she decided to fight for this world, she was thinking about how to lower the death count as much as possible.

“I don’t think there will be too much damage as long as it’s not declared an all-out war and America starts doing indiscriminate carpet-bombing, at

least.”

“Well, that’ll depend on the negotiations with me and Nee-chan.

Yes, during these five days Ars gave them, it was decided that Ria and Serge were to go to Earth.

As an aside, Labyrinth was invited as well, but she withdrew into the labyrinth. It appeared that she didn’t really even want to meet her acquaintances from her previous life. Well, as an elf, she would have stuck out quite a lot on Earth though.

“So, are you prepared?”

“No problems here. We’ll be flying there soon.”

“In truth, I’ll be teleporting us there though.”

They would be using Serge’s teleportation magic as their means of transport. Although they could break through the barrier and fly their easily, they were concerned about retaliation coming from Earth.

Their destination was Japan. They’d already decided on what actions to take.

“Ria, Serge, please be careful.”

Carla spoke, an uneasy look on her face. Ria kissed her on her cheek.

“Don’t worry. If push comes to shove I can just transform into a Dragon and come back.”

Although Ria’s statement made Serge start to get a feeling that something might end up happening, he heard a voice come from nearby him.

“Archduke.”

“Your Highness.”

It was Prince Sion, the one who had been speaking actively in the meeting.

By the way, between Sion, a prince, and Ria, an archduke, Ria was distinctly of a lower rank. An archduke wasn’t royalty, after all.

“You’re leaving already?”

“Yeah, right now even.”

“That so? If you can, could you try to get a hold of some of Earth’s weaponry? Nuclear weaponry in particular.”

Although his request surprised Ria somewhat, she smiled in the next instant and asked for his reason.

“They’re weapons you’ve said are strong enough to decide the outcomes of battles by themselves. Don’t you think that we should study them?”

The three who’d come from Earth looked at each other before looking over to Ars.

“Your Highness, those weapons have very sensitive matters keeping them held close to the chest, if you will.”

Leaving the explanation to Ars, the two looked back towards Carla.

“Alright then, we’re off.”

“I’ll buy you some souvenirs!”

Serge spoke in a light tone, but he quickly grew concentrated.

Unlike the short distance teleportation he could use offhandedly, this was a long range teleportation that would bring them all the way to Earth. It took him time to construct the formula.

Constructing the magic even while thinking about something as carefree as how he had to buy something for Chris as well, he finished, the two of them teleporting away.

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Footnotes:

1. Umm... how could everyone see it!? Spheres!
2. Note that they’re specifically using the term used for the genre/common trope. Not just “another planet”.

3. Note that this line used various Japanese-defined eras that require much more historical Japanese knowledge than I have to translate properly. Because of that, I localized it somewhat.

Chapter 114: To The Earth...

“Kuh... smells...”

The first thing the two people felt upon arriving on Earth was the odor in the air.

“Eeh, was Earth always like this?”

Serge pinched his nose exaggeratedly.

“Well, it’s true that Tokyo’s air is worse than the country’s... but there’s practically no air pollution in our world.”

There was the distinctive smell of charcoal smoke in the dwarven village, but even that wasn’t this bad.

“Never mind me... are you alright?”

Having Dragon’s Bloodline, Ria also has Stench Resistance. It was usually something meant to help for visiting active volcanoes though.

“Yeah, well, I’ll get used to it.”

Using the mask he’d originally brought to hide his face, Serge responded.

“Even so... you put us right in Tokyo?”

The two were currently in a back alley between two small buildings. They didn’t know what time it was, but it was definitely night.

“It turned out alright... but it’s a bit cold, isn’t it? I wonder what month it is?”

He felt the winter’s cold through his thin cloak. Serge quickly warmed his hands through fire magic. He was a bit worried about it, but it appeared that he was able to use his magic even on Earth.

Ria had no problem with the temperature because she was resistant to extreme temperatures. Casually jumping, she leapt onto the building’s rooftop. Serge followed behind her through teleportation.

“There’s the Tokyo Tower and the Sky Tree there... so the Setagaya Ward is over there?”

“Going to you parents’ place first?”

“No, my parents are in Yokohama. I’m going to the place I am indebted to from my previous life. That person has a lot of influence in both the political and financial world.”

“... Nee-chan, what sort of previous life did you leave behind?”

“It was just a chance meeting. By the way, it’s also the person that gave me Nagasone Kotetsu. Japan’s fixer.” [2]

Serge nodded. It wasn’t so strange for an eccentric person like Ria, who had spent her entire life in Japan learning martial arts and swordplay, to also know such a scary person.

“So, shall we fly?”

Dancing through Tokyo’s night sky, Ria flew while Serge used flight magic.

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“Here it is.”

What Ria guided the two of them to was a Japanese house that gave off the feeling of being a splendid estate. There was a gate, but to be honest, it was different from the luxurious castle Serge had been imagining.

“Here? I thought it’d be a bigger house...”

“I was already half retired before my death, after all. I was going back and forth between this house and Kamakura. Now then, is he here...?”

By the way, it was currently 9 PM. They’d confirmed the date and time on the way here as they passed by a convenience store.

Ringling the intercom as one usually would, they received a response a short while later.

[Yes, who is it?]

[Excuse me for the time. If you don’t mind, I would like you to convey that the one who had once been given Nagasone Kotetsu has returned from the world of the dead.]

[... Is this a prank?]

[No. Your voice, are you Maeda-san? If it's not a good time, I could come back tomorrow, but I would like you to convey that I came concerning the matter of the world you can see in the sky.]

[... Just a moment, please.]

Before long, the gate opened. An elderly woman Ria hadn't seen in a long time appeared.

[... You are?]

Even her suspicious gaze was nostalgic.

Ria lowered her hood, exposing her true face.

[It's been a long time. I look like this, but I am Yuzo Tamura.]

“Nee-chan, so that was your name...”

Ria's former name finally made its appearance, yet Serge only had a slight reaction to it.

[Tamura-sama died in an earthquake four months ago, though...]

[Yes. However, in that world there.]

Ria pointed toward the world floating in the sky.

[Around twenty years have passed since then. It might be hard for you to believe, but I was reborn in that world. I came here so suddenly hoping that we could borrow your influence for the matter concerning our two worlds connecting.]

Saying that, Ria pulled out Nagasone Kotetsu from its sheathe at her waist.

[I made this by mimicking Nagasone Kotetsu in that world. I was hoping that Ozen might understand by seeing it directly.]

[... For now, please, come in.]

Despite becoming completely expressionless, the maid guided the two of them into the entrance way.

[Please wait here.]

The two waited in the room they had been guided to.

“Nee-chan, my legs hurt.”

He hadn’t been sitting in seiza since being reborn, so keeping up his posture was difficult.

“Don’t push yourself. He’s friendly.”

Saying that, Ria was calmly sitting in seiza. She was accustomed to the position due to there being techniques for drawing one’s sword from the position.

Soon after, the sliding door opened and a man appeared. From his appearance, he looked to be around forty.

[Which one of you is calling themselves Tamura?]

[I am. Kikuchi-san, long time no see.]

This man was also someone that Ria knew. Right now, that man was looking at Ria with a certain blood thirst.

[If you’re Tamura... try unsheathing this guy.]

He passed back Ria’s Nagasone Kotetsu. Staying in place, Ria unsheathed it without showing even a single opening.

[Aren’t you better than Tamura?]

[I’ve been training over there, after all.]

[Hmm.]

Kikuchi nodded, waited for a moment, then left the room again.

“That guy’s a bodyguard?”

“You figured it out?”

“Setting aside his level, his skills are really amazing.”

He truly was a fit opponent for Ria in her previous life. Their abilities

were practically equal.

His swordplay level was lower, though. In exchange for that, his bojutsu level was higher. [1]

A short while later, an elderly person appeared in a relaxed manner. He was wearing a kimono and a pair of sunglasses. He looked considerably old, but his back was straight.

At that moment, Ria moved from the floor cushion she sat on and placed her head against the tatami mat.

[It's been a long time, Ozen.]

[... Tamura, you've become a woman? A fairly beautiful one, at that.]

The old man laughed. It was the kind of laugh that could even be said to be like heartfelt delight.

[It's not as though I'm a complete woman, though. Allow me to introduce you. This is a friend who also reincarnated there from Japan.]

Serge stood up and greeted him formally.

[My name is Sagittarius Crystal Crowley. Please, call me Serge.]

He waved his hand to have Serge sit, he himself also taking a seat, causing Ria to raise her head. Kikuchi stood by his side.

[Being born again is quite an event, is it not? What happened?]

[The flow of time between this world and that one is different. I even know some people who reincarnated from the 21st century two thousand years ago.]

[What's your name? That's likely changed as well, I take it?]

[Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogress. It's a long name, so please call me Ria.]

[Hoh, that sounds like an important name. Are you a noble over there?]

[Yes. There are practically no countries with a democracy. I am currently the ruler of the third most powerful country.]

[So Tamura's a ruler! Now that's a surprise!]

The conversation between the two continued on for a while. They talked about how Earth had been, much like they were comparing their memories.

Following that, the topic turned to what exactly happened after Ria died in her former life. She was single, but it wasn't as though she didn't have a family. Hearing the story, Ria felt as though a heavy burden had been lifted from her shoulders.

[So, what did you come here for? Surely it wasn't simply to reminisce?]

Compared to thus far, the mood suddenly turned heavy. It was something Serge had often felt in his new world, the majestic gravity of a heroic figure, the feeling of intimidation.

Ria pointed toward the sky, continuing to talk as though the pressure didn't exist.

[I believe you heard the Demon King's words as well.]

[Yeah, that bullshit story. Destroying the Earth... is it really possible?]

[It is. There are beings there with enough power to do so... the God Dragons. If it's destroying the human race, even I could do so myself.]

[Dragons... no, before that, did you just say you could destroy the world alone?]

[I'm a bit off that myself, but if I had a month's time, I think I could cause all major cities on Earth to fall.]

[How? Not even you could cut down hundreds of millions with a sword.]

[I would use magic. As you could see by the projection having its words translated to the world's various languages, that world has magic. There is even a person there who can use magic with similar destructive power to a nuclear explosion by himself. If the work was divided into a group of people, there would be many more.]

[Magic, that shady-sounding thing came up again. What do you mean by it?]

[That's why I brought him along. Serge, please do a short teleportation.]

"Understood."

Consenting in the language of the other world, Serge performed a short distance teleportation.

[Astonishing. Truly astonishing. It's not some illusion?]

[Would you like me to destroy a small country somewhere as proof then? How about that certain north country, the one that's so annoying to Japan?]

[No, wait. It was a joke.]

Ria waited. It didn't take too long for him to organize his thoughts.

[So, allow me to ask again. Why have you come here?]

[That world will be allowing immigration, but Demon King Ars intends to give Japanese people the highest priority. This is because he is Japanese as well. Moreover, he wasn't reincarnated like I was, he was summoned there as a Japanese citizen.]

[Then why is he wanting to destroy his birthplace?]

[He lived in Japan for fifteen years, but he's lived in that world for one thousand. As far as he is concerned, that world is more important. Moreover, there is no other choice.]

Ria put strength into her Dragon Eyes.

[It's unfortunate for the countries that aren't Japan, but this is what the Demon King has decided and is what I agreed to as well. More than ninety percent of that world's leadership has recognized the decision.]

[Really now... He said that the sick and elderly will not be allowed, what of that?]

[It's as he said. Basically, it's planned for anyone sixty years or older to be refused. Setting aside influential humans like you, we do not intend to also have to deal with age-related issues.]

The explanation put him at a loss for words.

[... Setting aside elderly like me... There would still be quite a number of people that can work beyond sixty though?]

[That's why I said basically. Those with special skills or who are doing certain research will be screened by us.]

[... Tamura... you've become an extremely important person...]

He muttered in a low voice.

[Unilaterally saying that you would kill, unilaterally saying that you would choose, do you think that we will consent?]

[We have no need for those humans that have too much pride in their position. Humans working on-site and some leaders to guide them is enough.]

[You...]

[There is no such thing as basic human rights in that world. Other than the Demon King, not even the various countries' rulers would understand. Other than the Demonlands, there are very few democratic countries and most would laugh at the thought of human rights in derision.]

[Damned if we do, damned if we don't...?]

[And now that we're back on topic, I would like you to lend me your aid in screening the immigrants.]

[What absurdity... what about the Americans...?]

America's engineers and scientists are planned to be given preference after Japan. However, humans that believe in Christianity might be somewhat difficult to manage.]

[Far from difficult, it might be impossible. Even for Japanese, it's a question of whether or not they'll want to go... you know that this will be war, right?]

[Likely so.]

[Don't say it so lightly... are there many wars in that world of yours?]

[There was a war between humans and demons up until recently, but it

is peaceful now. There are some small fights, but it's the same on Earth.]

He folded his arms and started considering. Ria looked at him quietly, but Serge was bored. He used magic to look around the place, but gradually grew tired.

[In any case, I can't decide on this alone. For now, stay here for the night. Is there anything else?]

[No. Well then, I'll accept your offer.]

With that, Ria and Serge slept on a futon for the first time in a long time.

Borrowing sleep-wear, they gazed up at the wooden ceiling. His eyes closed, Serge spoke.

"Nee-chan, it looks like it's a hard decision for him, huh?"

"Yeah, but what else would you expect after suddenly being told your planet was going to be destroyed? I don't think anyone would be able to handle that easily."

Despite the nostalgia she felt, Ria quickly fell asleep.

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Footnotes:

1. Bojutsu -> using a stick as a weapon.
2. I have no idea what 'fixer' here is meant to mean. It's said in katakana, too...

Chapter 115: Fools

Despite it being winter, Ria still woke before dawn and, seeing Serge still asleep, quickly changed her clothes.

She went out to the garden and pulled out Nagasone Kotetsu.

It was time for her never changing morning training. Each time her swung her katana, the sound of the air being cleaved could be heard.

She followed through the form. Over and over, she slowly followed the ideal image in her mind.

Sensing someone, she pointed her katana toward them. Kikuchi had been watching Ria from the veranda.

“It looks like you really are Tamura. Want a sparring partner?”

“I’m thankful for the offer, but...”

Ria picked up a random pebble and crushed it with her fingers.

“I’m more inhuman than not, so I’ll have to pass.”

“Was that magic just now?”

“No, it was just my grip strength. I could even crush a diamond.”

“Yeah, that’s inhuman...”

When Kikuchi walked out into the garden, they started talking about martial arts. What Kikuchi wanted to know was whether or not martial arts were useful in that world.

“Yeah. Rather, they were even helpful in everyday life. There was a lot of times I was riding on horseback in war.”

“War, huh... Did you kill a lot?”

“For direct kills... around three hundred people? Well, a lot more if you include the spears I made.”

“What about archery? Most casualties should’ve happened during the battle itself though. Come to think of it, there weren’t any guns?”

“Bows aren’t used much against other humans. Magic is more accurate and can be used at longer distances. As for guns... not really, but again, magic is used for about the same.”

“Can you use magic too?”

“Yeah. Like this.”

Right then, Ria ascended into the air. Slowly, she landed immediately next to Kikuchi.

He was so amazed that his jaw fell open.

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“Tamura-san, breakfast is ready. Please bring your friend as well.”

Hearing the maid call out, she kicked Serge awake, had him change, and headed to the room. The two sat down as though they were going to be interviewed.

“Oooh~, Japanese food for the first time in ages!”

His eyes gleaming, Serge looked at the food as though to gobble it all up.

“Well now, Tamura... no, that way of calling you doesn’t feel right, does it?”

“Please, call me Ria. I’m already accustomed to it.”

“Then, Ria-san. Last night, it was arranged that people would come together for a meeting.”

Though to be precise, he’d been having conferences every day since the Demon King’s proclamation.

“Truthfully, they are a group that keep the country moving. I’ll be going as well.”

“Understood. How long until then?”

“After lunch is over. Would you like to do something before then?”

“... Yeah. I’d like to meet my family... but with my appearance, it’s unlikely they’ll understand.”

Even if they could, it would likely take a considerable amount of time. She didn't think a single morning would be enough time.

Ria talked about various political matters with him until the appointed time.

Each country had their own reactions towards the Demon King's proclamation, but as expected, the United States, under the name of freedom and justice, insisted on defending Earth. Even Russia and China were in agreement with it. Then again, their innermost thoughts were of the undeveloped frontiers the new world held.

Japan was following America, but as Ars had specifically stated that it would be in Japan's parliament building, it appeared that questions concerning whether or not it had some connection with this new world were coming up.

"I could have done something about it if I'd had some information ahead of time..."

"True, but he doesn't need to worry about things like that."

"That Demon King, is he that strong?"

"He is strong, but in strength alone, I'm stronger. However, that world has a country of demons and its level of civilization is on a whole other level. Winning against it is impossible."

"... You defeating the Demon King wouldn't work out?"

Thinking about it now, that means had existed at one point.

However, the moment she learned that they were connecting with Earth, her options had disappeared. The main thing causing that was, above all, the God Dragons' backing of the Demon King.

"By the time I learned the Demon King's goal, it was already too late."

Yes, the dream of human-demon symbiosis. Nowadays, it was thought of as something great.

Even when he said that another world would be destroyed by the Great Collapse, Ria had agreed with the Demon King. When she was informed

that that world was Earth, it was no longer possible to go to war against the demons. There was too much attachment between the demons and her own citizens.

That man had been carefully working behind the scenes long before Ria was born, even leading Lemdria into peace through a de facto defeat.

“Then the real negotiation will be after that bastard gets here..”

“Will it actually be a negotiation though...? There’s no doubting that he’s a tough opponent though.” [1]

Sipping their miso soup, Ria thought of the man who was a far distance away.

*

The conference room in a section of the National Assembly Building was guarded strictly, around a dozen men collected within.

They were the incumbent minister, senior bureaucrats, and big shots of the business world. This lineup certainly could shake all of Japan.

The big shots stood up and bowed as Ozen entered the room. Even though he himself says that he’s retired, his influence hadn’t decayed at all.

“Come now, raise your heads.”

Doing as he said, everyone looked up and were surprised upon seeing the two people who followed in behind Ozen.

One was an overwhelming beauty who had black hair and golden eyes. The other was a young man.

“I’ll start with some introductions. These two are Ria-san and Serge-kun, they came from that other world.”

“I am the Archduke of the Ogress Archduchy, Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogress.”

Ria had come in a modern button-up black business suit. Although she would have been alright with wearing the other world’s style of clothing

for intimidation purposes, she wanted to avoid standing out too much.

“I am a Baron of the Ogress Archduchy, Sagittarius Crystal Crowley.”

Although Ozen introduced each of the men present in the meeting room, Ria honestly found memorizing their faces troublesome.

Serge wrote the information down on a notebook he pulled out of nowhere.

“Now then, how about we begin?”

Ozen and Ria sat down, everyone else following suit afterward.

The long discussion began.

“So then... first, I’d like to hear about that other world, but you... should I call you Your Excellency? Are you alright with using Japanese?”

“I don’t mind if you use Your Excellency or Ryuke Riana, but I’m often called Your Majesty. Also, Japanese is fine.”

“Then Your Majesty, I’d like to ask you about your world...”

“Serge, the map.”

Serge projected a rough map of the Dragon Bone Continent in the air. Everyone still surprised over it, Ria started her explanation.

“This large blue area is the Demonlands. It is governed by Demon King Ars. The second largest area here in the south is Lemdria Kingdom. The third largest over in the west is the Ogress Archduchy. There are other countries, but I’d like to proceed with these three first.”

“Excuse me, Your Majesty, this person you call the Demon King is, in other words, a ruler of demons? What do you mean by that?”

“Should I start with that then?”

Ria scratched her head. It was true that earthlings were only humans, they didn’t have demons on their planet.

“There are three basic classifications of intelligent life on our world. Humans, demi-humans, and demons. Humans are the newest of the three, but they are also the most numerous. Demi-humans and demons are

divided into further classifications. And the one who rules the demons is the Demon King.”

“Umm, could you describe those ‘demons’ in some more detail? Are they hostile to humans, or...?”

“They used to be hostile. Even now, there are still some demons that are hostile. Though those brutish races also tend to be thought of as savages by other demons as well. While on the topic, there aren’t any groups of human savages.”

“Demons... how exactly are they different from humans?”

“That part is difficult... the definition of ‘demon’ was races that were hostile towards humans, demi-humans included, until recently. But now, after the Demon King’s invasion, humans and demons have reconciled and live together. Still, to give you an example... vampires are demons.”

Hearing her last words, people began to murmur.

“Did she say... vampires?”

“To say a few more that are well known on Earth, there’s also goblins, dark elves, and werewolves.”

A few inquisitive questions followed after that, but that shouldn’t have been the theme of that day’s discussions.

“So then, this Demon King is actively trying to destroy the Earth?”

“Although the Demon King did set the table, the ones who will be destroying the Earth are the God Dragons. To be precise... the Demon King prepared a situation such that the God Dragons must destroy the Earth.”

“What do you mean by God Dragons?”

“Godslaying Dragons. They have lived in that world for several billion years and are quite literally our world’s gods. In order to protect the world, they chose to destroy Earth as the natural order of things. The current situation is that we are trying to have at least some of Earth’s humans migrate over first.”

“According to Your Majesty’s story, it sounds as though you could

destroy the Earth even without bothering to accept immigrants...?”

“You are correct. That’s why you could call what the Demon King is doing a... personal matter. He is a former Japanese citizen, after all.”

“Japanese!?”

“He was summoned into that world when he was fifteen years old, killing that era’s Demon King as the Hero. After that, he gathered together the disjointed demons and helped them become civilized. He spent a thousand years doing that.”

“Can humans live a thousand years in that world?”

“If you use magic or request it from a God Dragon, it is possible. I myself am expected to live several hundred million years.”

Several hundred million.

Mankind’s history was at the most in the millions. Ria waited for everyone to calm back down.

And finally, the main topic came up.

Telling them that Japanese would have the priority in migrating over was Ria’s goal.

“How could we transfer tens of millions of people into the sky...?”

“We have a way to manage that. If we use the floating continent, we could transfer a few hundred million in one go. We can just repeat that ten times and be done with it.”

“A floating continent...?”

“It’s a flying landmass that’s 120 kilometers long. It can even travel through space, as it had originally been made as an outer space exploratory vessel to begin with.”

“But what about facilities and equipment...?”

“We’ll provide them. We should be able to catch up to at least the 1980’s after ten years.”

“Foolish.”

“The populace will never consent to something like that.”

“That’s too unilateral!”

Ria felt nothing despite the hostile gazes.

“You seem to be misunderstanding something...”

Ria stood up and faced them with her Dragon Eyes. That alone caused enough pressure to bind them to their chairs.

“This is neither a negotiation nor a petition, it isn’t even an order. It’s a simple suggestion.”

Smiling, Ria spoke.

“It’s a simple suggestion. Shall all of Earth’s earthlings disappear? Or shall a few earthlings survive? You have two choices.”

Silence fell upon the meeting room.

“Do you need some time to think this over?”

Having stayed silent the whole time, Ozen made a remark.

“Ria-san, Serge-kun, could you leave us for a moment?”

Drinking coffees they’d gotten from a vending machine, Ria and Serge leaned up against the wall.

“... I wonder what’ll happen.”

“They probably won’t be able to respond today. I guess they’ll consult America?”

“America, huh... What about China and Russia?”

“We can ignore them. Especially China, they don’t accept Japanese immigrants after all.”

It was decided on when she talked with Ars. They wouldn’t accept immigrants from China. Taiwan was another story though.

“Islam’s a problem huh~”

“They wouldn’t have Mecca, yeah. On that topic, Christianity would be a problem too though.”

Devout Christians might just take this to be the Last Judgement and accept death. America would definitely resist it though.

“You can stop ICBMs too, right?”

“Yeah, probably. And we left that world’s defense to the God Dragons too, anyway.”

To be exact, the God Dragons were existences that defended that world, not the humans and demons within it.

They would be troubled if too many people died, though. She did verify that matter.

After just under an hour, Ria and Serge were called back into the conference room.

They’d half anticipated the conclusion.

Answer pending.

They would discuss it with the United States, their ally, before deciding what to do. Ria nodded her head.

“It doesn’t matter either way, but if you plan on asking America for military backup, I suggest not doing so.”

Giving them a friendly smile, Ria said the same thing as the Demon King.

“In the case you attack us, this country will disappear from the map.”

*

“Well, that’s that.”

Leaving the National Assembly building, Ria bade farewell to Ozen.

“Where are you doing next?”

“To my family. Even in the worst case, I want to protect my family.”

She would also temporarily separate from Serge.

How could she get them to believe her?

“Ozen, please make sure to put together some personnel to take along to

the other world.”

“... Do you truly believe the whole world will lose?”

“It won’t even be a fight. It might be if we intended to capture it, though.”

It’d definitely be prolonged if resistors used guerrilla tactics. But the Demon King and the God Dragons’ goal was to destroy the planet itself. They weren’t interested in its territories or resources.

“I’ll head out first.”

Serge teleported. His destination was his old home.

After bowing, Ria also set off, flying into the sky.

Everyone present in seeing them off were stunned. Ozen called out to them.

“How about we get to work? It’s impossible, but we can still hope.”

—This will be my final public service.

Ozen muttered in his heart.

*

Footnotes:

1. I don’t think I understand what Ria’s getting at in this line.

Chapter 116: Descent of the Demon King

At the moment that the Demon King had declared he would arrive, the Japanese parliament building was filled with people.

There were the heads of various countries in direct attendance, diplomats, and even people watching the assembly hall through monitors.

There were also authorized mass media personnel from around the world standing along the wall.

This situation was relayed to many nations across the world, with the audience rating within Japan already exceeding 80%.

*

“Good job.”

It wasn't that the parliament building's guards were negligent.

It was simply that Ars and the others teleported there like illusions.

Wearing a golden mask and a black outfit, this was definitely the man that had appeared in the sky that day.

The guards that had tried to stop him found themselves unable to move. Ria's Dragon Eyes had been invoked.

Having entered the building, Ars found another of those security guards and called out to him.

“Could you show me into the assembly hall?”

The guard was bewildered, but seeing that they weren't carrying any weapons to speak of, he managed to muster his courage.

“This way.”

His legs trembling the whole way, he guided Ars and the others there.

The final door opened before them, the group made their way into the hall.

The moment that Ars showed up, the hall was filled with noise.

The one to take the lead was the gold mask-wearing Demon King Ars. Following him was a dark elf, Rei, and a three-eyed man.

After then was King of Lemdria, King Hollyn, and his son, Prince Sion. Then followed the chief of the centaur race which had formed an alliance with Lemdria.

Coming third were Ria, Carla, and the ogre king.

Seeing races that were obviously not human, the hall was boiling.

“They could have at least prepared some chairs.”

Even while Ars grumbled that, eight chairs appeared out of thin air.

The various races coming from the other world gave their backs to the chairs, but the male centaur remained standing.

“Now then, once again, hello, everyone on Earth.”

With the effect of the natural law magic [Translation], his words resounded through the assembly hall in all of their languages.

“I am Demon King Ars. The person who rules the largest area of that other world. This here is King Ryuke Hollyn, and this is Archduke Ryuke Riana. They are the second and third most powerful nations’ rulers of that world.”

After introducing them in a rather relaxed manner, Ars sat down.

“And now we can begin our discussions.”

The first to ask for a statement was Japan. By the way, the one to serve as speaker of the hall was Japanese as well.

“Your Majesty Ars, I would first like to ask you for your true intention behind your statement several days ago.

Ars inclined his head. He didn’t have any hidden reason, that was all.

“I don’t understand the meaning of your question. To survive, we will destroy Earth. Because we will do that, we will also allow a potentially great number of immigrants to immigrate to our world. That’s all.”

The assembly grew noisy. Among them was America’s ambassador

making a remark.

“In other words, you are declaring war on the Earth?”

“Yeah, you could think of it like that I suppose?”

Ars smiled wryly beneath his mask.

“It’s better not to think of it as a war so much as a struggle for survival. Besides, the victor is already decided. Us offering the ability to immigrate is a kindness to the humans of Earth. The destructive power of the weapons we use is much too different, it wouldn’t be a war. Or perhaps, does Earth have a weapon capable of wiping out a planet that I don’t know of?”

The United States’ ambassador fell silent.

“You say that you will accept six hundred million immigrants, but there are seven billion humans living on Earth. Do you intend to end more than six billion lives?”

Another person spoke up, but Ars’ answer was unwavering.

“Correct. Not only humans, though. We will also destroy the rest of the planet’s fauna and flora.”

Ars responded in a relaxed, cold tone.

“To put it in a monotheistic sense, I suppose this would be the Last Judgement?”

Ars’ words caused many to make the sign of a cross before their chest. There were even those who muttered god’s name.

“By the way, our rule has genuine gods. I do not recommend for those who believe in monotheism to migrate over to it.”

In response to the information given by Ars’ words, the ambassadors of the various countries moved to report to their home countries. Or perhaps they were talking with the countries of the seats near them.

Ars looked at them with a despondant expression, believing it pointless.

“Could I ask a question?”

“What is your question?”

“Is it not possible for us to maintain our two planets’ state of being in contact? Although it is scientifically unbelievable, the fact is that our planets’ atmospheres are in contact with each other.”

“It is impossible. Not to mention the repulsive force between fellow words, we are only maintaining the current state with the influence of mana from our world. The moment they truly connect, our world’s gods will destroy the Earth. The one stopping that is me.”

“How long can the current state be maintained, then?”

“Forty-five days.”

In other words, the Earth wouldn’t exist in forty-five days.

The largest clamor thus far filled the hall.

Who would have thought that the planet’s destruction would ever come as suddenly as this?

“Bullshit! Mana and magic doesn’t exist!”

Before the representatives that now engaged in heated discussions, Ars teleported in an instant.

“That... is magic.”

Speaking in a whisper, he once again returned to his seat.

All humans in the hall had seen it. Magic.

“Now then. As you should easily see now, our world’s technology outstrips Earth’s. Based on this, I would prefer if you complied.”

“Before that!”

There was a man who drew attention to himself through his loud voice.

“You say immigrants, but how would they be distributed!? You aren’t intending to have the advanced countries monopolize them, are you!?”

“I am not.”

Ars denied it immediately.

“As a result of immigrating to our world, your level of civilization will fall for a time. It could be called a harsh environment for humans that are unable to do physical labor. Given that, it might be considered easier for them to have them die in an instant.”

“How arrogant...”

How ironic, perfect, thought Ars, seeing that the person who said that was white.

“Arrogance? I believe you should reflect upon your own history. Do not think that I am ignorant of what happened on the North American continent, nor what happened on Australia.”

According to the premise, Earth was overwhelmingly defeated.

Not only in terms of war potential, but even, it appeared, in information. Earth, as a planet without reincarnation and teleportation, sorely lacked information on the other world.

“How you thought about how the immigrants will be assigned? Will you do so according to the proportion of population density?”

“No. I will not allow those who hold ideologies that I believe to be harmful to our world to go there.”

“Racial distinction, then?”

“As you can see just by looking at us, we are of entirely different races. Racial discrimination... isn't much of a matter.”

“That is to say... it doesn't happen often?”

“Right now, this Earth has people who harm harm those of other races and nationalities. We will screen to sort those out.”

There were people who paled, but they were paying for their own mistakes.

“Even so... forty-five days is much too short for that. Unless you could send tens of millions of people a day, there isn't enough time.”

“Hmm.”

Ars placed his hand on his chin, looking as though he was thinking. Even if he made use of the floating continent's ability to transport people, it was an impossibly short time. The God Dragons probably wouldn't cooperate. What would he do then?

It was easy. He could just reduce the number of those that would immigrate. The continents other than the Dragon Bone Continent could be filled with immigrants from the Demonlands. It'd be a great help if they could use the six hundred million people's food provisions they had prepared.

"That will depend on your efforts then. We ourselves have no pressing reason to accept Earth's immigrants, after all."

At that moment, Ria stood up.

"My country can move tens of thousands of people per day through teleportation magic."

With Ria and Carla's mana and Serge's space-time magic, it was certainly possible. In theory, at least.

"Still, that wouldn't scratch six hundred million! This is virtually a declaration of war!"

An angry voice shouted out, more voices following it as the shouting continued. Ria succumbed to her irritation, but Ars still sat calmly.

Ah, so it happened again.

I got played by him, again.

"Forty-five days? I didn't hear anything about that."

"You didn't ask."

Although Ria started to unsheathe Gallach on reflex, she stopped herself just in time. If she swung it, all of the humans nearby would die.

"Ria."

Calling her name, Carla put her hand on Ria's shoulder.

The woman, believing that Ria's anger had calmed down, used

pacification magic on the crowd that had started a shouting match.

Releasing blue light, the men in the assembly hall went quiet and sat back down.

Standing before them, Carla spoke in her bell-like voice.

“Gather in a wide, flat area with minimal baggage. When you are ready, we will teleport you.”

Carla looked back at Ria, who could only nod.

“If you are still dissatisfied, you can resort to force. For us, you all are not essential.”

Carla hurt herself with her words. Carla hesitated even in depriving the lives of her enemies. It was inevitable that saying that before innocents would do that to her.

“Your Majesty Hollyn, what will you do?”

Ars asked in a comfortable manner. Hollyn responded casually while fiddling with his beard.

“To begin with, I am not interested in this world. I will consider it if you want Lemdria to lend its mages if it’s harmless, but I will keep my neutrality.”

Behind him, Prince Sion nodded as well.

As a ruler, his judgement was proper. A king should think of his country over all else, so although this might cause billions of people to die, he would prioritize the well-being of his own country.

Those unable to bear it the most were those who still held fresh memories of Earth: Ria and Serge. Ars’ memories had been weathered by a thousand year gap.

“Let’s follow up on this discussion at the same time in three days. There probably won’t be much of a significance to it, though.”

Ria was unable to oppose this man that had summed it up like that.

This man... wasn’t evil. No, his existence couldn’t be summed up as

simply as that.

The nine of them had teleported to Manesh's court. There, Ria was glaring at Ars with a frightening expression.

"You... you aren't a Demon King. Not as simple as that..."

His mask removed, Ars quickly moved away from Ria.

"I really didn't know about the forty-five day thing until just beforehand either. I was really preparing clothes, food, and housing for six hundred million people."

Was it the God Dragons' fault, then?

The only one there was Ohma. She was sitting on the floor in bad manners, eating a roasted nut.

"What? I didn't know either. The other God Dragons probably knew, but there's nothing to do about that yeah? I think even Valis thinks moving six hundred humans is impossible."

Hearing Ohma's words that had no ill-will to them at all, Ria was at wits' end.

What could she do?

Using the floating continent and teleportation to transport them, they'd only save less than a million at best. Seven billion humans... as well as far more animals and plants would entirely disappear.

"Should I have caused a human-demon war...?"

In terms of military might, the Demonlands were overwhelming. However, if Ria killed Ars, the Demonlands would collapse and the humans might just be able to put up a proper fight.

Even if 99% of humans and demi-humans would die as a result.

Rather than sacrificing the Earth altogether, wasn't that the better outcome?"

"Then, king of Lemdria, I'll send you to your castle."

"Thank you."

Ars teleported, along with sending the demons to the Demonlands.

Those left in the area were the leaders of Ogress and Ria's personal friends.

"What's wrong?"

Irina came and asked. She, someone who would eventually be a God Dragon, probably hadn't been told anything either.

Feeling despair, Ria told her what Ars said.

Chapter 117: The Beginning of the End

The attack was sudden.

Somewhere out in the Pacific Ocean, a single nuclear missile was launched.

It was aimed to pass through the atmosphere and land somewhere on the Dragon Bone Continent, but disappeared midair without detonating.

Then, aimed at the area that the missile was launched from, a laser-like flame shot out.

A steam explosion occurred as the surface of the sea bulged out and caused a giant wave.

The nuclear submarine that launched the missile was pierced by the flame and sank down.

“Well, yeah, that happened.”

Ohma informed Ria as though bored. The one who eliminated the missile was Terrew, with Ohma performing the counterattack.

“That so?”

Both Ria and Guinevere only reacted to that little of an extent. They were currently planning out the migration to the other, non-Dragon Bone Continent continents.

The Demonlands had already transported the goods with large airships, but since Serge had been temporarily teleporting the humans to Manesh, they still had to move them over.

“Maybe I should’ve sent them straight to the other continents in the first place.”

Serge, who’d plopped down on a cushion due to mana exhaustion, had just finished moving tens of thousands of Japanese citizens over without giving them a proper dialogue in the least. In other words, a kidnapping.

There was an archipelago just next to the Dragon Fang Continent, so he’d decided to gather the Japanese over there.

“Still though, there’s so many of them.”

Chris, who’d be helping him, threw in the towel as well. Japan alone had a population of more than a hundred million. Teleporting that number over was impossible.

The floating continent had already moved over to the Earth and was receiving people who wished to immigrate.

However, even that was a mere drop in the bucket.

*

Three days had passed since then, and Ars was returning to Earth a second time. However, it wasn’t as though he did this because things were progressing promisingly.

Spearheaded by the United States, all of the Earth’s war potential was aimed at the floating continent. Although they still weren’t using nuclear weapons, it was being attacked to the point that towns would turn into vacant swaths of land.

Even so, as it was protected by a magic barrier, it received no damage at all.

And despite that happening, Ars still went to the Earth.

The conference ended without anything to show for it.

It didn’t take long for Earth to begin resorting to nuclear weapons.

The nuclear warheads used were an order of magnitude stronger than those used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Yet even so, it was repelled by the magic barrier.

Deciding that it would take time and effort away from accomodating immigration, Shifaka attacked the nuclear powers.

It was a magic attack. Three large areas in the United States, Russia, and China were disintegrated by his attack.

The whole of Earth was thrown into confusion. Nevertheless, there were still countries waging race-based wars. Rather, now that the superpowers

were crippled, it could be said that their warring was intensifying.

Prudent countries crossed through the world's barrier with their own countries' aircrafts. Terrew had overlooked them.

Even if it was just a few hundred people, it would increase the amount of immigrants.

However, a few among those landed on the Dragon Bone Continent.

And what appeared from them were not immigrants, but soldiers.

*

Ars said that basically all continents other than Dragon Bone Continent would accept immigrants. However, this country foolishly planned on occupying land that had been developed to some extent.

It was an unfortunate event for both sides.

Beastkin villages were attacked by military forces.

Beastkin were known for their physical abilities, but even they still had bodies of flesh. None of them were a match against Earth's modern equipped forces.

The invaders hoisted a red flag in the middle of the village.

"It appears that an army from Earth attacked a beastkin village."

"A village of... beastkin...?"

Ria's emotions immediately began to boil. Unrolling a map on the desk, she asked where the village was. The map wasn't entirely precise, but it was enough.

"That's near Maal's village."

She thought about how to get there. Serge's teleportation was being used for immigration. If she went any slower than that...

"Ohma, could you teleport me there?"

"Huh? Sure."

Possibly pleased by something or another, Fire Dragon Ohma had been

hanging around in Manesh's court. She herself said that its because her own bed was a bit hot, though.

Casually waving her hand, Ohma and Ria instantly moved into the skies far away from the court.

Ria went to invoke her Dragon Eyes, but Ohma had already pointed them out.

"Right over there."

Not even doubting her, Ria took off flying there. Eventually, she began to see a trail of smoke she couldn't believe would be used for cooking.

Upon seeing it, there was no longer room to doubt.

It was Maal's village.

What Ria saw was beastkin lying on the ground with Earthlings casually killing them.

Aah.

No, no more.

Ria descended upon them from the sky, Nagasone Kotetsu in hand.

She sensed herself ending their lives one after another.

Not even the barrage of rifle rounds could break Ria's barrier.

Finishing off the final enemy, Ria headed to Maal's house.

Her heart felt like it would burst from her chest. She couldn't shake off the bad feeling she had.

No one was in the house.

It was Maal, so maybe she had found a way to escape with her family.

That has to be it.

"Did you know who lived here?"

Ohma called out from the entrance.

"Yeah, but there's no one here. It looks like they escaped somehow..."

“Four people went that way and another went to the center of the village.”

Following Ohma’s words, Ria first went to the outskirts of the village.

The fence that enclosed the village had a gap about large enough for a cat beastkin to fit through. Jumping over it, Ria looked through the brush while calling out for Maal.

“Ria... san?”

A male cat beastkin appeared from a hole in the base of a large tree.

She realized who it was due his type of fur. It was Maal’s husband. Three small cat beastkin were holding onto his legs.

“And Maal?”

“She said she was going to help everyone, she went to the village’s center and—“

Hearing that, Ria took off at a dash.

There wasn’t anyone in the village anymore.

Not living, at least.

There were innumerable corpses in the village’s center.

The corpses of both cat beastkin and those that Ria had shredded.

However, there were the corpses of enemies she didn’t recall killing there as well.

That had to be Maal’s work.

They were taken from behind, their necks sliced open. Maal would have no trouble at that.

But there was no living person there.

“Maal, it’s me! Ria! Where are you!?”

She has to be somewhere.

She has to!

“This Maal person, what do they look like?”

Having walked over nonchalantly, Ohma asked a question.

“A cat beastkin, her whole body is covered in black fur.”

“And her level’s reasonably high? So then...”

Ohma pointed her finger out.

She’d pointed to an enemy’s corpse, but there was something weird about it.

Ria immediately realized why—there was someone under it.

“Maal!”

Beneath that enemy’s body, there was a black cat beastkin.

Her entire body was soaked in blood, she wasn’t breathing.

“A-ah...”

She didn’t make it.

“She’s dead.”

Ohma spoke in a plain tone, as though to say nothing could be done about it.

“Ohma, revi-... ve...”

“Impossible. It’s not just the Millennium, there’s even a Great Collapse going on right now, the Soul Cycle is too violent. Not even Valis could.”

“Carla...”

“Doubt it. If a God Dragon can’t, I doubt a human could.”

Ohma answered with indifference, Ria’s hope destroyed.

“Aaah...”

Ria embraced Maal’s small body.

There was a trace of warmth remaining. Her face peaceful, Maal was dead.

“Aaah... U-uuu... aaa...”

Tears flowed down Ria's cheeks, landing on Maal's face.

This was something she couldn't forgive.

Even if someone might be able to, Ria could not.

And so, Ria roared.

The red flag that had been planted nearby vaporized.

She couldn't control her anger. The mana within her body circulated like a tempest, running wild.

“RAAAAAAAAAAH!”

It was a shout that didn't belong to a human. Ria's body exploded outward.

Turning into a black-scaled being, Ria had transformed into a dragon.

Ria flew.

Far into the sky, she broke through the boundary with Earth.

Ria flew.

Her multiple-kilometer long body flew into Earth's atmosphere.

Then, arriving at her destination, Ria let out a breath with all her might.

Everything was destroyed by her Darkness Breath. Ria's all-out assault destroyed the land. Destroying the crust, it continued on. With all its might, nothing remained.

Like a tsunami, the land swallowed its surroundings.

Creating a huge mushroom cloud, the shock wave traveled through the ground.

Hundreds of millions of people and other animals were wiped out—no, erased by Ria's breath.

It even caused something similar to tectonic drift, indirectly depriving even more lives.

Ria's anger continued to drive her on as she destroyed the land, continuing until she had no choice in the matter.

Ria, drained of strength, returned to her human form and fell due to the pull of gravity. However, during her fall, someone caught her.

“Really, what an unreasonable person.”

Not wearing his golden mask, Ars shouldered Ria.

“The mana here’s so agitated that it’s not even possible to teleport?”

Ars returned to the Dragon Bone Continent through flight magic and tried to head to Manesh. However, he stopped and turned toward the existence that called out for him.

“Yo.”

“Ohma.”

Fire Dragon Ohma was carrying Maal’s remains and the four other cat beastkin.

“The heck happened with her?”

“Looks like her friend got caught out by some of Earth’s soldiers and was killed.”

Dragons didn’t lament death. It was just a matter of returning to the Soul Cycle.

However, it wasn’t as though they didn’t understand what it was to be sad, not what it was to be angry.

“So that’s the cause of it?”

Ars looked at Earth’s land. It was dyed in the color of rage.

Let alone that foolish country, Ria’s anger had even destroyed the surrounding countries.

Japan was among them.

“Japan’s gone...”

Upwards of a billion people died due to Ria’s attack. Even if it wasn’t her intention.

Even for Ars, this was an unplanned and unpleasant predicament.

However, he would immediately put this to use.

“Ohma, can I leave her to you?”

“I don’t mind, but what’re you going to do?”

“I’ll use this for the Earth.”

Entrusting the unconscious Ria to Ohma, Ars headed towards the Earth.
His destination was the White House.

Even now, it could still just barely be called the heart of the Earth.

*

“Yo, President. How are you doing?”

The President was in his office despite it being so late at night.

And, despite it being so late at night, there was a person in a gold mask standing right in front of him.

“What was that!?”

The aftermath of Ria’s attack knocked out the majority of the planet’s communication systems. Still, the President was able to confirmed that an unreasonable attack had been launched on them.

Sitting down on the sofa, Ars explained it concisely.

“What happened just now wasn’t due to me nor the God Dragons. It was done by Archduke Ryuke Riana.”

It wasn’t due to a country, nor due to an organization. It was simply the anger of an individual.

An individual that destroyed a portion of the Eurasian continent.

“A foolish country, not wanting to develop lands themselves, invaded and slaughtered the inhabitants of a beastkin village. Normally, she would have ended it at killing all of the soldiers.”

Ars shrugged. His manner felt almost ironic.

“Unfortunately, the archduke’s friend lived in that village. Having lost a friend, the archduke destroyed the country that was responsible for her

friend's death. The surrounding countries, too.”

“An individual's anger... destroyed a country...?”

“President, I said it before, but you shouldn't be hostile against us. Instead, you should help move more people to immigrate.”

Ars continued with a tone that seemed to say that he sympathized.

“There's no going against it. It can't be avoided. It's not your responsibility.”

“Oh... God...”

Hearing the President's unconscious murmurs, Ars responded with sarcasm.

“If you think about what the Earth's gods have done for humanity, I don't think you should rely on them.”

Leaving that statement, Ars vanished from the White House.

Chapter 118: To The Final Battle

“Ria-chan.”

Maal was dancing.

Her arms and legs moving spiritedly, she was dancing in delight.

Something she’d seen long ago.

The cat beastkin were dancing and laughing around Ria and the others.

Something she’d seen long ago.

“Ria-chan.”

Maal’s figure became more distant.

“Please, take care of the children.”

Wait. It’s too soon.

She knew that they would one day have to part. However, it shouldn’t have been this soon.

It’s too soon!

Maal vanished, smiling.

And then Ria woke up.

“Oh, you woke up?”

Shizuna was there, watching over her.

“... What happened?”

Ria sat up and used the cuffs of her shirt to wipe away her tears.

“The immigration has resumed. It’s even gotten to the point that teleportation magic can be used again.”

“How long was I out?”

“Two whole days.”

Trying to stand up from the bed, Ria staggered and was caught by Shizuna.

“What’s everyone doing?”

“Everyone’s doing their jobs. I’m useless though, so I’m here.”

It was half a lie. Shizuna, having heard what happened from Ohma, stayed next to Ria’s bedside the entire time.

“... And Maal?”

*

Placed in a coffin, Maal was cleaned of blood and gore, making her look as if she was sleeping peacefully.

Standing beside her were her husband and children. They were engrossed with the sadness of losing a family member.

Irina, not understanding what happened too well, was staring at Maal with a vacant expression.

“Maal...”

She pet Maal’s now-cold fur, touching the pads of her palms.

All Ria felt was sorrow.

She was still angry. However, that anger was pointed to herself.

She had made a mistake. Somewhere.

She didn’t know where or when, but she should have been able to avoid this.

“You can stay here in the court. When this is all over, we can think about the future.”

Tears overflowing and desperately trying to keep herself from breaking down, Ria looked up and spoke to the rest of Maal’s family.

“You humans are too serious. Souls will all get reincarnated eventually.”

Ohma was sincerely trying to be sympathetic. She, as a God Dragon, just couldn’t understand.

“I’ve said it before, but you’re way too impulsive, even for an impulsive person. You caused immigration to stop for a while.”

Ria's attack had caused large-scale meteorological disasters across almost the entire planet.

When asked how many people were dead, the responses ranged from anywhere between one and two billion.

How many innocent humans... no, even things that weren't human, just how many lives had she taken?

It was a mistake. Even if the Earth would eventually perish, instantaneous death was very different from a cruel one.

"Well, the result's not much different anyway. It's just needless worrying."

Ohma's way of thinking was something that Ria could not accept.

*

Her traveling companions visited Manesh's palace.

Carlos and Lulu arrived together.

Her face buried in Carlos' shoulder, Lulu cried silently.

Gig had a bouquet that looked very out of place for him and placed it beside Maal's body.

Irina still kept on caressing Maal's forehead, her face expressionless.

Serge came last, kneeling in front of the coffin with a fatigued face.

Maal's three children still didn't entirely understand what had happened.

Looking at their mother inside the coffin, they clung to their father.

Their final farewells given, Maal was buried.

Simultaneously with that, a terrifying sense of despondence overcame Ria.

She sat down on a chair in her office, looking up into the air.

"Ria, even if you're sad, a ruler still has to fulfill their role."

Guinevere spoke. She spoke of pragmatic things, not comfort.

“You can only do what is before you, after all.”

“Ah... yeah...”

Although clumsy, Ria resumed her duties. She indifferently put the mountain of documents before her into order. However, this was a job that was suited to her.

She missed the times when could she swing her katana in order to fix her problems.

“Guinevere, where did I make a mistake...”

“... If I had to say, it would be when you decided to help those of Earth.”

Although Guinevere wasn't much of a gentle person, unlike Ria, she could view things cool-headedly.

“If the God Dragons destroyed Earth the moment our worlds touched, then at the very least, your friend would still...”

Even if she didn't continue, Ria still knew how the sentence would end. However, she had stopped Ars from doing it. In order to allow Earth's humans to migrate over.

“What a horrible story...”

“Yeah, it's a hopeless tale. But Ria, you shouldn't have done anything. If you did... if you did cause the human-demon war, you would have decreased the number of this world's humans. Then, among those dead humans, many may have been your friends.”

It was an increasingly hopeless tale.

“Perhaps you just have to keep what is important to you nearby...”

“What do you consider important to you?”

“My son, and this country. That's all.”

Ria also had important people to her. The companions she'd traveled with, the people she met in her journeys, her family, and this world.

She'd seen acquaintances died many times.

There were many beastmen who were killed by Cordova's cruelty.

Even so, none of that was comparable to this sadness.

"I'm so weak..."

"Ria..."

Carla tried to embrace Ria, but she was refused with a gentle motion.

"Please, don't comfort me right now."

If she had a shoulder to lean on right now, she might not be able to get back up.

She would live, holding this feeling of loss close to her heart. If Valis' words were true, she would live for hundreds of millions of years. Tens, hundreds of people, including everyone she knew.

She would see them off.

Ria wasn't certain that she would be able to endure it.

Carla gripped her hand.

*

Time passed.

It was only a week until the deadline Ars had given.

Under those circumstances, Shifaka and Valis were visiting Ria.

"We have accommodated three million people on the floating continent. Considering how long we have left, that is the limit."

Shifaka spoke in a fatigued tone. Just before this, he'd taken ten thousand humans over to this world.

Compared to that, they would save three hundred times that amount. It was hard to tell whether that was a lot or not enough.

"The prayers will fill, soon."

Valis spoke in her usual monotone.

"Prayers?"

Did something happen? Ria was cautious.

“The gods of the Earth will awaken.”

It was something she’d heard before.

The majority of those left behind on the Earth would pray to their gods. Then, at that time, those gods would awaken.

So that they wouldn’t become a hindrance to Valis, she would destroy the Earth’s pantheon. This was a request from the God Dragons.

“The final battle is about to begin.”

Battle.

It was something that Ria was good at.

Even if her opponent was a god—rather, exactly because her opponents would be gods, she would be able to finish it without any pangs from her conscience as she destroyed them in battle.

It wouldn’t be the atrocity of killing wantonly, but a death match with her life on the line.

*

Old and young dragons flew in the sky.

Black dragons, fire dragons, wind dragons, water dragons. They numbered well beyond ten thousand.

Following the dragons, Machine Gods descended upon the Earth.

And although few in number, so did those who could stand toe-to-toe with dragons.

In the end, only somewhere around five million people were evacuated from the Earth.

Only five million. Upwards of 99% of Earth’s humanity were destined to die.

Ria did her best and staying calm despite that fact.

Immediately next to her was Carla. Not giving Ria a greeting, she just

looked at her.

A conspicuously black Machine God came from the preceding Machine Gods and stood next to Ria.

[Yo, I want to talk about something.]

Ars was speaking with telepathy, so Ria returned in kind.

[Yet I don't.]

[Good, I'll do the talking then. In the unlikely event that I die in this battle, I'd like you to rule the Demonlands.]

Ria looked at the Machine God's face in spite of herself.

[Even if I've civilized the Demonlands, that only holds so long as there is an absolute existence, a Demon King, ruling them. There are many hot-blooded races.]

Ria couldn't respond. Ruling the Demonlands, something far larger than even Ogress, wasn't something that Ria could do.

[You're the only one. You're stronger than anyone, know the benefits of civilization, don't discriminate based on race, and above all, are young.]

Ria thought he was overestimating her too much.

[I have my hands full with Ogress as it is. You want me to manage the Demonlands as well? Give me a break.]

[You wouldn't have to do it by yourself, of course. I've built a bureaucratic government. I've told my subordinates what to do if it happens.]

This man... was he trying to take advantage of Ria yet again?

[... Do you... intend on dying?]

[Definitely not. I want to see mine and Ferna's child with my own eyes. Even so, I'm thinking about contingencies. Isn't that the duty of a ruler?]

He was right.

Even Ria had informed Guinevere on what to do in the worst case

scenario.

[If the Demonlands fall into disorder, so will the rest of the world. But even so, I won't force you.]

Breaking off their conversation himself, Ars moved forward again.

Seeing Ria place her hands against her forehead, Carla moved over to her.

"Did something happen?"

"Just something troublesome. We'll talk about it later."

Saying that much, Ria hugged Carla.

"Carla... don't die, okay?"

"Mm."

Smiling like a goddess, Carla responded as though there was nothing to worry about.

*

Dragons danced about Earth's skies.

The dragons looked similar to the devils of the west. Many people dropped to their knees and prayed to their respective deities.

People's prayers began to take shape and, born from the Earth, they appeared.

Various gods of various lands.

Existences that were simply impossible, what could only exist in legend. Those very existences now appeared.

Although those humans had no hope left, they still clung to what they could.

Following the gods' movements, the Earth rumbled as well.

Giant earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, and thunder assaulted not the dragons flying in the sky, but rather the people on the ground.

What appeared wasn't limited to the various pantheons' gods.

What also appeared were the existences known as devils.

Even though they appeared, the dragons were challenged to battle.

The final battle had begun.

Chapter 119: Twilight of the Gods

“Hyaah!”

Together with her shout, Ria’s katana cut an angel in two.

A devil that had tried to rake its claws against her defenseless back was torn asunder by Carla’s holy sword.

“As expected... there’s a lot of them.”

“There are. Our mana recovery is slow, too.”

They descended to the Earth as a pair and fought together against gods, devils, and other minor gods.

Ria was using Gallach at first, but as its consumption was much too great, she switched to her normal katana.

It wasn’t just Nagasone Kotetsu, though. She was using the best five swords in the world that she’d taken from Japan’s sword museum in the confusion. [1]

“As expected of Doujikiri Yasutsuna, it’s great at cutting.”

Demons, apparitions, angels, devils, she sliced apart all existences that rose up from human imagination.

The one guarding her back was Carla. She knew that this would be a test of endurance, so she conserved her mana as much as possible.

[Nee-chan, are you alright?]

And beside the two was a single Machine God.

Normally, Ferna would have been the one using it, but it was readjusted for Serge’s use.

Serge, who’d thought that he would have held them back with his power alone, was also participating in the front lines.

Even so, whenever they find a surviving human, he forcibly sends them to the other world.

“Ria, something that looks like a huge snake is coming from other

there.”

When she looked toward the direction Carla spoke of, there was a several kilometer long snake flying at them. As for its distinctive features, that would probably be the wings growing out of it.

[Quetzalcoatl...]

“What’s that?”

[It’s a god that existed in the Americas before Caucasians migrated over. I believe that it was a good god, if I recall.]

“Either way, it is our enemy.”

Taking a hold of Gallach, Ria headed towards the Aztec god.

*

The battle lasted for a long time.

Day and night, Ria continued cutting down her enemies.

After turning into a dragon, Ria’s physical abilities rose drastically. She didn’t even get tired after staying awake for several days straight. Even without resting, her endurance would recover on its own.

Even so, she could still lose concentration if she got tired mentally.

An old man with a single eye threw a spear at her. Even when Ria tried to dodge it, it continued following her around.

When she attempted to intercept it with an ordinary katana, it broke apart. So Ria then unsheathed Gallach and destroyed the spear.

Continuing on the pierce that god’s heart with Gallach, the god scattered apart into the atmosphere.

[That one was Odin from Norse mythology. So next is...]

A giant god appeared from another direction.

It was a huge wolf whose nape reached into the heavens. This existence was a godslayer from Norse mythology.

[Fenrir...]

“I’ve heard that name somewhere.”

Carrying Gallach around on her shoulder, Ria flew towards the giant wolf.

Her fight with Fenrir lasted for three days and nights.

Meanwhile, Carla and Serge handled the weaker minor gods.

Ria penetrated the heart of the wolf that had already collapsed from exhaustion, winning somehow or another.

“That was a tough one...”

As expected, not even Ria’s endurance recovery was able to keep up with her expenditure. That one was comparable to those older dragons—maybe even stronger.

“Let’s take a short rest.”

Saying that, Carla sat down. Ria followed suit, resting her back against some rubble that used to be a wall.

[We’re lucky that the Cthulu mythology’s gods were so weak.]

“What are those?”

[They were gods in a story created by Lovecraft from the 20th century, existences on the scale of the entire universe.]

“So... equal to Valis, or worse?”

[They were actually weak though. After all, they were born from mankind’s imagination. How much faith could they have collected in that time?]

“Faith, huh...”

In that case, that was probably the strongest god.

The existence referred to simply as God. A ruthless being that chased humanity to the edge of destruction in the Old Testament.

“God...”

Ars and the God Dragons got in touch with the Black Cats' members through the communication devices. Although quite a lot of dragons were dying, the various pantheons were being killed off as planned.

"India's gods were fairly deadly."

Shifaka spoke. It was true, the Indian pantheon, filled with such incredible myths, was strong.

Gathering in the spot where China once existed, the Machine Gods and warriors were talking.

Black Cat members were missing, neither Azel nor Shana were there.

"They got done in by four of 'em. Thankfully, the navigator made it out."

Ars wasn't hiding his emotional state. Was he thinking about the two who weren't there? They'd both fought with him long ago.

"Have you cleaned up most of the famous ones?"

Thor had turned his big sword as a rod. Although his sword could be called a holy sword, it gradually lost its edge as it cut apart various gods' bodies.

The dragons still danced in the sky as ever, cleaning up the small and minor gods.

Eating angels, eating devils. It was like a god buffet.

"Where do we go next?"

Ria asked Ars. Ars held the tentative leader position.

"Most of them have been settled, so the big shot should be appearing soon. It should be at a level that not even elder dragons can win against."

Earth's dragons were weak compared to the dragons of their world. Even with their blood and flesh, the warriors would not lose when pit against them.

"Leave the small fry to the dragons, let's get the last boss."

"Last boss?"

Hearing Shifaka's question, Ars responded.

"The majority of people on Earth believe in a single god. Perhaps no one other than the God Dragons could defeat it."

"Christianity's God, huh..."

Thor sighed heavily.

"Were you Christian, by chance?"

"No, I wasn't... just, he's also the god of Islam and Judaism, you know?"

Their original texts were the same, so of course it would be like that.

"I think we can win with our lineup. As science developed, the power of faith fell."

Though given that the dragons and gods were duking it out, most of Earth's population down on the land had been wiped out. There probably weren't even a billion people left.

What Ars meant by this lineup was the team of three from Ogress, Ria, Carla, and Serge, as well as Black Cats' Shifaka, Thor, and Alvis. As well as Ars himself.

Ohma and Terrew are holding up the barrier that's keeping Earth's gods from going over to our world. Lanna is in reserve, and Valis is keeping her mana full.

"If we defeat him, we can leave the rest to Valis. Now then, how about we set out for the final fight?"

Saying that in a light tone, Ars boarded his specially-made Machine God.

The Machine God Serge rode was a mass produced type, one that had almost no mana remaining in its magic core.

"Unfortunately, I'll have to retire here. Nee-chan, Carla-san, I'll give this to you."

Saying that, Serge removed the small magic core from the Machine God. As it was a mana crystal, it could be used like a bomb, as well as like a battery that could help restore your mana.

However, it was already prepared to fire off a magic with the rest of the mana in it.

“Super Acceleration. Use it in an emergency.”

With that, Serge headed back to Manesh through teleportation along with the powered-down Machine God.

“We’re one down, but I think we’re still good?”

“Maybe? It would be great if a God Dragon assisted us if we needed it.”

Ria’s worries were justifiable, but Ars responded lightly.

“The gods up till now were strong too, but compared to the number of believers this one’s had, it’s probably incomparable.”

“Well, we won’t know if we don’t try. We can think of a strategic retreat for if push comes to shove.”

Their wounds treated, the group finally started to set out for their destination.

“By the way... if God shows up, where do you think he’ll go?”

The one Ria asked was Thor, a Hero from two thousand years prior.

“Where... wouldn’t he go to the Vatican?”

[I don’t think he would.]

It was Ars who answered. Although he was summoned at the age of fifteen, he knew more than Thor.

[I’d say Jerusalem.]

Ria agreed with him. That place was the birthplace of God’s legend.

The group flew with flight magic.

The ones in their own flesh rode on Ars’ Machine God so as to save as much mana as possible.

Before long, something came into view. It was a giant pillar of blinding light that penetrated the sky.

“So big...”

Thor spoke, impressed.

The giant being of light penetrated the clouds. This was the figure of the last remaining god.

“My sword goes first!”

Going first, Thor brandished his holy sword and swung.

The slash could crush even mountains, yet it was sucked into that light and disappeared.

[Seal Release.]

The armor came off of Ars' Machine God, the body of a god appearing.

Ria also gripped Gallach tightly, transforming into a dragon.

The final battle had begun.

*

Footnotes:

1. I have no idea when this happened... maybe Japan un-sank after the waves settled?

Chapter 120: Judgement Day

As soon as the battle started, Ria and everyone else realized that this God was a mass of energy.

So, becoming light, he knocked Ars' Machine God and dragon-form Ria about.

(This is... a war of attrition?)

The body of the Machine God that Ars was operating and God's body were about the same size. Even if he used much wide area attack magic, it wouldn't deal much damage.

Carla and the three Black Cats tried to clear the surrounding small fry. Although those two wouldn't be damaged by the small fry's attacks, they still wanted to allow them to concentrate on the enemy before them.

[Ruin.]

Ars' magic pierced into God's existence. However, it didn't prove to be a fatal blow.

The light shot off by God burned the Earth. Let alone the Devils, it even caused the angels—those that were on its side—to disappear in that light.

[Looks like it's how the saying goes, God said let there be light. Guess his attacks would be like that.]

Although Ars fought while analyzing, this former god's body boosted by a magic core didn't appear to be losing out against this sole God.

Ria's darkness breath scattered the light.

(It has... a body?)

Beyond its defensive light, she could definitely feel the signs of a body.

Was it necessary for gods to have bodies to manifest in the world?

In that case, there was a more effective way to attack than using her breath.

[Raaaaah!]

Together with a roar, Ria bit into God's body.

Its armor of light burned Ria's scales. However, her fangs truly did reach God's flesh.

[I see, so darkness contrasts his light? Or maybe...]

A gargantuan fluctuation of mana could be felt coming from the Machine God. Ria let go of God's flesh and quickly separated from him.

[– Genesis –]

In his right hand, sparkles that looked like a galaxy appeared.

[– Void –]

In his left hand, a darkness that inhaled all appeared.

“Run!”

Whether or not Shifaka's shout reached everyone, the magic was completed at that moment.

[Collapse.]

Between the space of his two hands, something able to destroy creation itself was birthed.

It swallowed not only God, but the Machine God as well.

This was Ars' last resort.

Producing both genesis magic and void magic, then combining them.

What had swallowed even the strongest dragon, Golden Dragon Clarice, his final trump card.

Be it Machine God, God, or Dragon God, this was the ultimate destruction magic.

Carried to the extreme, this was magic that existed at the height of the cosmos' creation and could devour all.

However, even so, God remained.

Even with Ars pouring all of his and the Machine God's mana into it, it still wasn't enough to defeat God.

However, it certainly did deal a great amount of damage to him. They just have to give him another blow.

Ria undid her transformation and put the most mana she ever had into Gallach.

She looked at the remaining portion of God's body.

She could see it.

A bundle of light within the partially destroyed body.

Ria aimed for it.

"Together!"

Carla, Shifaka, Alvis, thor. All of the remaining members sent Ria their mana.

"Super Acceleration."

Using the power of the magic core that Serge had left her, Ria broke through her limits and reached her opponent.

Coming this far, at the end of the end, she felt like the pieces of the puzzle all fit together.

"Eyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!"

Struck by the blow that split heaven in two and divided the ground in half, God's heart was broken in half.

Genesis light spread out, swallowing Ria and Ars. Nay, it tried to.

Ars' half-broken Machine God protected Ria.

"What—...!"

[I leave... the rest, to you.]

Ars transmitted his final will. It was beyond feeble.

He would die, right here?

He came to fight so that he could die?

Were the words he spoke to Ria actually the truth?

“Ah, we can’t have that happening. Here we go.”

The one to appear before Ria was God Dragon Ohma.

Dragging Ars out from inside the Machine God, she retreated from inside the light. Terrew had also appeared next to Ria at some point and took hold of her.

Also grabbing Carla and the Black Cats’ members on the way, they escaped from Earth’s atmosphere.

Lanna and Valis were holding back at the boundary between worlds.

“Dying on your own like that, how irresponsible.”

Taking Ria from Terrew, Valis turned her view to the Earth.

When Ria turned back to look, she saw the land upheaving, the seas evaporated. The entire Earth looked like it was reddening.

“Riana, we’re going.”

Lead by Valis, Ria once again returned to the Earth’s domain.

“What...”

“You are my successor.”

Valis took her true form—a dark dragon, larger than even a mountain.

Erecting a barrier around them, Valis reached the Earth’s core.

In that bright and hot area, Ria naturally switched into her dragon form.

Valis’ figure, her mana became a ball.

A ball that then began to swallow everything around them. From the Earth’s core to its crust, it swallowed everything.

Darkness filled Ria’s surroundings.

[Behold, Riana.]

Following Valis’ voice, a single... tree-looking thing appeared in Ria’s eyes.

When she looked closely at it, it was a collection of green grains of light.

These grains of light were... stars? No, larger than that...

[This is the visible universe.]

[This is...?]

[Right there is our world.]

The planet with the Dragon Bone Continent on it appeared close up within Ria's mind.

[And even that existence which you all call Earth, there are innumerably many.]

Here and there all around this magnified tree of the universe, there were many appearances the same as Earth.

[This is the universe...]

Information that could not be mastered by humans flowed through Ria's mind. Nevertheless, her dragon brain, her body, they absorbed it all.

Eventually, she fell asleep.

It was a necessary sleep to organize that vast amount of information.

Returning Ria to where she should be, Valis corrected everything.

Adjusting the position of the planet that just became the solar system's third planet, she made it move regularly.

"So this is the end..."

Whether it was a comrade or themselves, dragons didn't lament death.

Therefore, the only thing within Valis' mind now was the sense of accomplishment for doing what needed to be done.

Not even this would happen for a normal dragon. However, Valis had been much too involved with mankind.

"Is that enough?"

She smiled sarcastically at her own question.

Thus was how Dark Dragon Valis' soul was shaved away, disappearing forever into the horizon of space and time.

“Ria.”

Called for tenderly, Ria opened her eyes.

“Carla...?”

“Yeah, it’s me.”

Carla’s hair waved in the breeze. The two of them were still high up in the sky.

Which cause Ria to realize something. Right now, she was being carried by Carla like a princess.

She started to protest, but realized that it’s fine as is.

“It’s over...”

“Yeah...”

There was much more that would happen in the future. But Ria understood that, at least for now, it was over.

“That Ars, he went with haphazardly saving me at the end.”

“He did.”

“Serves him right.”

Ria wasn’t able to decide if what happened was a good thing. He saved a person that he’d pushed difficult things on to.

It was Ria’s victory. Even though the God Dragons came to save them.

“I’ll be taking over a lot of annoying things.”

“?”

“We’ll talk about it later. For now, I just want to go home and take a bath.”

She looked to the sky. There was no longer the surface of another planet covering it.

The Earth had disappeared. However, there were other Earths just

minutely different. Countless amounts of them.

Perhaps there were countless other worlds similar to this one, as well.

“Making everything go as planned was hard.”

“It went exactly as you thought it would, didn’t it?”

She’d spoken to someone who was also flying in the air with them, Ars.

“Well, guess I’ll try doing my best for the next thousand years. I was told not to do irresponsible things, after all.”

Only saying that, Ars returned to the place he belonged.

Although this was the last time Ria and Ars would meet, neither of them knew it.

“Shall we head back? To Manesh.”

“Yeah.”

“By the way, Carla. How long are you going to be carrying me like this?”

“Isn’t it good, once in a while?”

Ria firmly protested that.

Epilogue

Many, many years passed.

Many people were born and died.

Many countries flourished and fell to ruin.

Many civilizations prospered and fell to ruin.

Many races thrived and went on the decline.

An era that called this history a myth began.

An era that humans, demi-humans, and demons intermixed on the four continents began.

There was a labyrinth called the Dark Labyrinth.

It was constructed in a mythical era, many explorers challenged it, yet they were all repelled.

Within its depths was a giant door, beyond which many dragons slept.

Mere legends at this point, no one had ever seen the appearance of a dragon.

In that place was a bed with a canopy.

Lying on that bed was a beautiful saint with silvery hair and blue eyes.

Beside her was a black-haired, golden-eyed queen of dragons.

Holding Carla's hands, Ria didn't move from her prayer-like posture.

There was a girl with blonde hair and green eyes standing a little bit away.

"Ria, it looks like the time has come..."

Even at a time like this, Carla's voice was beautifully clear.

"... Has it?"

Ria's voice lacked emotion. Due to the long years, it had steadily ebbed away.

Both Carla's body and spirit had lived far longer than the limit of a human. She was now approaching the limit beyond that.

God Dragons could live for an almost infinite length of time.

The first century was the most painful.

She'd watched as her friends, acquaintances, and even her descendants departed this world before her.

The Demon King no longer existed and the former Demonlands was an area deemed the most prosperous place on the planet, a place where all races thrived together.

All of the kingdoms of old had vanished as well. Even so, people continued their activities.

Really, a very long time had passed.

And now, the last person who knew Ria from when she was a human was about to enter the cycle of reincarnation.

"Ria, please look for me."

"Yeah..."

Whether it took hundreds of years, or thousands.

Ria would definitely find Carla.

"Ria... I love you."

"Yeah."

Carla's body was concealed by a faint silver color.

Together with her soul living her body, her spirit and body disappeared.

Carla died.

"Ria."

Irina spoke. Ria, whose head was downcast, turned around with a lucid expression.

"Irina, I'm a bit tired, too."

She quietly traced her finger along the bed.

The bed that still held some of Carla's warmth.

"... I... want to sleep..."

"Mm."

"What will you do?"

"I'll travel."

Irina spoke resolutely.

"That so? Travel... that's... a good thing."

Ria laid down on the bed. It still smelled like Carla.

"Well then, I'm off."

"Yeah."

Closing the huge door, Irina headed for the surface.

Seeing her off, Ria closed her eyes and took a long, long rest.

*

Now, where should I go?

Irina thought.

It was a journey with no destination. Even so, there should still be a purpose to it.

"I'll find Maal-chan."

It's a great idea, if I do say so myself.

Her soul had been lost. Just how much time had passed since then?

Now that she was the last one left, she would find the person who she first got along with.

She didn't know which continent to go to, but she should still be able to find her.

Scattering the nearby monsters that couldn't read the mood, Irina ran.

Now, she had nothing.

Therefore, she had the potential to gain everything.

Running through the labyrinth's floors, Irina burst up onto the surface.

Both the world and her future was right there for the taking.

*

Translator Comment:

Sincerely, I thank you all for reading this series. It was the second one I'd ever picked up and I learned a lot through its gradual translation. Despite my shortcomings, I hope you enjoyed it and that you may stick around with me through another series' journey.

Credits

Translator: [Ziru's Musings](#)

Epub: [Estevam](#) / [dotNOVEL](#)